UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/AC.109/2010
16 September 1994

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF TOKELAU

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1440th meeting, on 15 September 1994

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Cognizant of the three options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in Principle VI of the annex of resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Taking note with appreciation that for the first time Tokelau came together as one people and nation to speak to the United Nations Visiting Mission, in order to address the question of Tokelau's act of self-determination,

Aware of the special problems facing Tokelau by virtue of its isolation, small size, limited resources and lack of infrastructure,

Reiterating the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the implementation of the Declaration, which fully applies to Tokelau,

Having examined the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau, 1994, dispatched in July at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and of the General Fono (Council) of Tokelau, 1/

Having heard the statement of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, 2/

Having heard the statement of the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the continuing exemplary cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Tokelau to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Ulu-o-Tokelau (highest authority of Tokelau), the Elders of Tokelau, the Council of Faipule (joint chairmen of the General Fono), the pulenuku (village mayors) and all other representatives of the people of Tokelau, as well as the administering Power, for the courtesies, cooperation and assistance extended to the Visiting Mission;

3. Takes note of the solemn declaration read by the Ulu-o-Tokelau, on behalf of the people and their leadership, indicating a strong preference for a future status of free association with New Zealand;

4. Notes that the people of Tokelau, through the General Fono, the Council of Faipule and other institutions, expressed their readiness to assume full governmental responsibility and to conduct their own affairs within the framework of a constitution which is currently being drafted;

5. Takes note of the determination of the people of Tokelau to exercise their right to self-determination following the establishment and effective functioning of all branches of government in accordance with their own constitution;

6. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand to meet its obligation to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and to abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. Approves the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau, 1994; 1/

1/ A/AC.109/2009.

2/ See A/AC.109/PV.1440.

8. Decides, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in this regard at its forty-ninth session, to continue the full examination of this question at its next session in the light of the findings of the Visiting Mission.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1440th meeting, on 15 September 1994

The Special Committee,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General 1/ and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council, 2/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, as well as all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including, in particular,

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1/ A/49/216 and Add.1.

2/ A/AC.109/L.1824.

resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 3/

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Concerned that the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have not been fully achieved,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Noting that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Barbados from 26 April to 6 May 1994,

Noting also that some Non-Self-Governing Territories participated in the Conference as associate members of regional commissions,

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee concerning the access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes of the United Nations system,

Noting the assistance extended thus far to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and considering that such assistance should be expanded further, commensurate with the pressing needs of the peoples concerned for external assistance,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the necessary measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation, without further delay, of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, particularly those

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3/ See A/46/634/Rev.1.

relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community, as well as other regional organizations, for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/22 of 25 November 1992 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. Takes note of the report of its Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council 2/ and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom; 4/

2. Recommends that all States should intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the full implementation, without further delay, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspiration of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their

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4/ E/1994/114.

right to self-determination and independence entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and urges all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to accelerate the full and speedy implementation of the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

8. Also requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in formulating their assistance programmes, to take due account of the conclusions and recommendations, entitled "Challenges and opportunities: a strategic framework", of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York in June 1990; 5/

9. Further requests the specialized agencies to take into account the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 6/ in particular its application to small island Non-Self-Governing Territories;

10. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to formulate programmes that will support the sustainable development of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and adopt measures that will enable those Territories to cope effectively, creatively and sustainably with environmental changes and to mitigate impacts and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources;

11. Urges the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to

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5/ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4, chap. II.

6/ For the report of the Conference, see A/CONF.167/9.

submit the proposals as a matter of priority to their governing and legislative organs;

12. Recommends that the executive heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund draw the attention of their governing bodies to the present resolution and consider introducing flexible procedures to prepare specific programmes for the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not already done so to include in the agenda of the regular meetings of their governing bodies a separate item on the progress they have made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

14. Welcomes the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and calls upon the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to consider contributing to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in those Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by natural disasters and to look to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States for guidance concerning their roles in natural disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, taking into account the outcome of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

15. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

16. Urges the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of the representatives of the Governments of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the Territories may draw the maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

17. Recommends that all Governments should intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in that connection, should accord priority to the question of providing assistance on an emergency basis to the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in

implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

19. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

20. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. Decides, subject to any directives the General Assembly might wish to give at its forty-ninth session, to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.